

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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COMMERCE:ADAUMAN

TREASURY:MCHAVES

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, EGEN, US

SUBJECT: US-EC CONSULTATION - TRADE ISSUE WORKING GROUP

REF: EC BRUSSELS 8573

1. WE PROPOSE THAT THE TRADE WORKING GROUP PRINCIPALLY
FOCUS UPON MTN AND BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES. THE SPECIFIC
MTN AGENDA WILL BE DETERMINED IN LARGE PART BY THE STATUS
OF WORK IN GENEVA AND THE OUTCOME OF THE SUMMIT. ALTHOUGH
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SPECIFIC AGENDA WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IMMEDIATELY

PRECEDING THE CONSULTATIONS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONCENTRATE ON A FEW KEY ISSUES RATHER THAN REVIEWING THE WHOLE MTN WORK PROGRAM. WE WILL HAVE TO CHOSE AMONG THE FOLLOWING ISSUES FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION OF US AND EC POSITIONS: TARIFFS, SUBSIDY/CVD, SECTORS, SAFEGUARDS AND LDCS (TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT), GATT REFORM AND SUPPLY ACCESS. IF MTN AGRICULTURAL IMPASSE IS RESOLVED BEFORE CONSULTATIONS, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE DETAILS OF AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS. OUR DELEGATION IN GENEVA MIGHT WISH TO SUPPLEMENT THIS PROPOSAL BETWEEN NOW AND THE CONSULTATIONS. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING MTN DEL VIEWS ON ISSUES MENTIONED IN THIS CABLE. SUGGESTIONS FROM MTN DEL AND FURTHER ANALYSIS IN WASHINGTON AND EC REACTION COULD LEAD TO NARROWING OF ABOVE LIST OF ISSUES.

2. IF US-EC AGRICULTURAL IMPASSE IS NOT RESOLVED, WE BELIEVE THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE HANDLED AT MEETINGS INVOLVING BOTH GUNDELACH AND RABOT WITH SENIOR LEVEL US OFFICIALS. GRAIN RESERVE ISSUE SHOULD IN OUR VIEW BE SIMILARLY HANDLED IF THERE REMAINS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OVER GENEVA VS LONDON. HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO HOLD DETAILED BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON GRAIN RESERVE PROPOSAL (I.E. US LONDON PROPOSAL) IN WORKING GROUP. AN ADVANTAGE OF REMOVING CONTENTIOUS US-EC AGRICULTURAL MTN IMPASSE FROM WORKING GROUP IS THAT IT WILL ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME TO DISCUSS OTHER MTN AND BILATERAL ISSUES AT WORKING LEVEL.

3. ON BILATERAL ISSUES, WE WILL WISH TO DISCUSS POULTRY, IRISH BEEF RESTITUTIONS, TOBACCO TAX, MIPS, EXPORT INFLATION INSURANCE RULES OF ORIGIN, EC-IRAN, COMPUTERS AND AIRCRAFT. ON POULTRY, RABOT ADMITTED TO YEUTTER AND USDA OFFICIALS THAT BALL IN EC COURT. WE WILL ASK FOR REPORT ON PROGRESS OF EC DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE PROMISED AT LAST US-EC CONSULTATIONS.

4 WE WILL BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE PROTECTIONISM ISSUE AS REQUESTED BY THE EC. HOWEVER, IN THE WAKE OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT, WE HOPE ISSUE WILL BE PUT TO REST. IN ANY CASE, IF EC WISHED TO RAISE ISSUE, WE SUGGEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSION FOCUS ON ITEMS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO THE EC (E.G. CARS AND HAMS). IN THIS CONNECTION WE INTERET LIST IN REFTTEL OF EXPORTS ALLEGEDLY THREATENED BY US ACTIONS AS ILLUSTRATIVE AND NOT A SUGGESTION OF ITEMS WHICH WILL BE RAISED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS IS THE CASE. KISSINGER

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